United Nations TCDC/13/2

Technical cooperation among developing countries

Distr.: General
24 March 2003

Original: English

HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Thirteenth session
New York, 27-30 May 2003
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of Reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted pursuant to decisions 12/1 and 12/2 of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. It covers: (a) the status of the implementation of the Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the common results framework that has been incorporated into the guidelines; (b) the status, management and use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation; and (c) the organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of technical cooperation among developing countries. Based on the analysis contained in the report, a number of specific recommendations are advanced to promote the objectives of technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation in general.

03-29280 (E) 030403

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–3	3
II.	Implementation of the United Nations system guidelines and common indicators for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries	4–14	3
III.	Status, management and use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and related resource-mobilization initiatives	15–25	5
IV.	Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of technical cooperation among developing countries	26–45	7
V.	Recommendations	46	10

I. Introduction

1. In its decisions 12/1 and 12/2 of 1 June 2001, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries reiterated the continuing importance of technical cooperation among developing countries in particular and South-South cooperation in general as strategies for optimizing the development potential of developing countries and as a means of ensuring their effective and equitable participation in the international economic system. It therefore called upon both developed and developing countries as well as the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to redouble their efforts to promote South-South cooperation. In particular, it requested the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions and multilateral institutions, to take further concrete measures to integrate systematically the use of the modalities of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries into their regular programmes in keeping with the New Directions Strategy.

2. In this context, the High-level Committee decided to review the Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the common results framework at its thirteenth session in 2003. In addition, it called upon the Administrator to take action to further mobilize resources for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was also urged to develop en effective system for the management and use of the resources of the Trust Fund. Finally, the High-level Committee emphasized the need to ensure the effective role of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as the substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee, the United Nations system coordinator for technical cooperation among developing countries, and the focal point for South-South cooperation. It therefore requested the Administrator to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit within the United Nations be maintained. It also decided to review periodically the impact and functioning of the Special Unit in supporting, promoting and coordinating technical cooperation among developing countries on a global and system-wide basis.

3. In keeping with the above-mentioned decisions, the present report reviews (a) the implementation of the Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; (b) the status, management and use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation as well as other resource-mobilization initiatives; and (c) the organizational, administrative and financial arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries. In each of these areas, the report advances recommendations designed to strengthen support for technical cooperation among developing countries in particular and South-South cooperation in general.

II. Implementation of the United Nations system guidelines and common indicators for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries

4. The effective promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system requires the adoption of appropriate policies and procedures to guide the design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such cooperation. It was this consideration that motivated the High-level Committee on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in its decision 7/1 of June 1991, to call for the preparation of guidelines for the review of policies and procedures on technical cooperation in the various United Nations organizations and agencies.

5. In response to decision 7/1, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries prepared guidelines that sought to systematize the principles that would inform the policies and procedures of various United Nations organizations and agencies in their support for technical cooperation among developing countries. At its eighth session, held in 1993, the High-level Committee welcomed the preparation of the guidelines and requested the organizations of the United Nations system to apply them on an experimental basis.

6. The guidelines were revised in 1997 to make them consistent with the New Directions Strategy for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries that had been prepared by the Special Unit at the request of the General Assembly and approved by the High-level Committee. The revision also took into account the comments and recommendations of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (now the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination) and other policy directives emanating from the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the High-level Committee and the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA.

7. At the request of the High-level Committee, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries prepared a number of common indicators for measuring and reporting on progress made by the various United Nations organizations in the implementation of the revised guidelines. The proposed indicators were discussed at an inter-agency meeting of focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries convened by the Special Unit on 7 June 1999, following the eleventh session of the High-level Committee. As a result of these discussions, it was agreed that the Special Unit would take the lead in developing a common results framework, based on normative and operational indicators as well as innovative approaches to technical and economic cooperation among developing countries. The framework would be used by the various United Nations organizations on a pilot basis.

8. A review of the reports prepared for the twelfth session of the High-level Committee by the various organizations and agencies on the activities they had carried out suggests that the organizations and agencies sought to apply the pilot indicators in the preparation of their reports. In this regard, a number of the reporting organizations, most notably the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), indicated that they had formulated appropriate policies and had also established focal points to ensure priority consideration for technical cooperation among developing countries in their programming activities in keeping with the provisions of resolution 1994/41 of the Economic and Social Council. Several of these organizations and agencies also reported that, at the operational level, they had established networks relating to South-South cooperation, such as the Internet-based Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) programme of FAO, the interactive networks created by ITC within the framework of the World Trade Net, the ESCAP Network of Local Government Training and Research Institutions (LOGOTRI) and WIPONET, established by WIPO.

9. The reporting organizations had also sought to promote the exchange of skills and experiences among developing countries in their respective areas of competence. In addition, the organizations and agencies concerned had succeeded in developing a number of innovative approaches to technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation. This was the case in the FAO Partnership programme that facilitates the exchange of expertise between developing countries and countries in transition; the FAO Special Programme for Food Security, which facilitates the transfer of experience from the more advanced developing countries to other developing countries; aspects of the ITC World Trade Net focused on the strengthening of trade-related capacities in the developing countries; and the UNFPA decentralized programming modality in support of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

10. The Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, together with the common results framework that was annexed to the report of the Administrator contained in document TCDC/12/3, were submitted to the twelfth session of the High-level Committee with a recommendation that the Committee request the organizations of the United Nations development system to: (a) follow the Revised Guidelines more rigorously in designing their programmes and use the common results framework systematically in monitoring and measuring results; and (b) intensify their effort to mainstream technical cooperation among developing countries, especially at the country level, by using country planning, programming and reporting mechanisms. These mechanisms included the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), cooperation frameworks at the country, regional and interregional levels, and the results-oriented annual report (ROAR). In addition, it was recommended that the

Committee also request the Special Unit to increase developing-country access to the Web of Information for Development (WIDE) and strengthen WIDE linkages with development-oriented networks in developing countries as well as those of the organizations of the United Nations development system.

11. Although the recommendation in (b) was endorsed by the High-level Committee in its decisions 12/1 and 12/2, the Committee nevertheless indicated its desire to review the Revised Guidelines as a separate agenda item at its thirteenth session.

12. At the inter-agency meeting of focal points for technical cooperation among developing countries that was convened by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on 4 June 2001 immediately following the twelfth session of the High-level Committee, it was acknowledged that although the common results framework developed by the Special Unit had enabled the various United Nations organizations and agencies to improve their reporting on activities carried out in support of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, it was still not possible to capture in the report to the Committee all of the interventions of the United Nations system relating to technical cooperation among developing countries. The main reasons for this were the limitations imposed by the stipulated length of the report to be submitted to the High-level Committee and, more importantly, the inherent difficulty in fully capturing all of the activities relating to technical cooperation among developing countries since the United Nations system did not have a suitable mechanism for attributing the proper financial value to project budget inputs relating to technical cooperation among developing countries. It was acknowledged, therefore, that a more proactive approach would need to be adopted to achieve a proper attribution of activities to technical cooperation among developing countries and to arrive at a suitable valuation of such activities. It was agreed that an effort would be made to incorporate the common results framework into the Revised Guidelines since the indicators contained in the framework had proved useful in enabling United Nations organizations and agencies to systematize their reports on activities in the area of technical cooperation among developing countries prepared for submission to the High-level Committee.

13. The Guidelines have therefore been revised on the basis of the above-mentioned consultations with the United Nations organizations and agencies and now incorporate as an integral element the common results framework that had been submitted to the twelfth session of the High-level Committee as an Annex to the report of the Administrator contained in document TCDC/12/3 of 22 March 2001. In addition, the Guidelines identify a number of new issues that need to be taken into account in the promotion of activities relating to technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

14. It is proposed, therefore, that the High-level Committee endorse the Revised Guidelines and request United Nations organizations and agencies to use them as a framework for orienting their support to technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation.

III. Status, management and use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and related resource-mobilization initiatives

15. The Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation was established by the Administrator in 1996 at the request of the General Assembly. It was set up in recognition of the need to mobilize an adequate level of resources to fund South-South-cooperation activities that had emerged as a priority area of development cooperation. It was deemed a priority owing to the increasing number of programmes adopted by the developing countries in their various intergovernmental forums and the call for the United Nations system to intensify its efforts in support of such cooperation.

16. The Voluntary Trust Fund, which comes under the overall authority of the Administrator, is managed by the Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, who receives semi-annual reports from staff responsible for projects funded from the Trust Fund. Expenditures on projects financed from the Trust Fund are reflected in a separate section of the Financial Ledger maintained by the Special Unit to ensure

the effective monitoring of expenditures incurred within this framework. The Director of the Special Unit reports to the Associate Administrator of UNDP on activities carried out under the Trust Fund.

17. In the period 2001-2002, the Voluntary Trust Fund attracted contributions amounting to $750,000: $650,000 from China and $109,000 from the Republic of Korea.

18. These resources have been complemented by cost-sharing contributions from the Government of Japan totalling $8,150,000 and channelled to UNDP under the Japan Human Resources Development Fund (JHRDF), and by parallel funding from the Rockefeller Foundation ($117,000), the International Development Research Centre ($400,000) and the Canadian International Development Agency ($1,040,000). The core resources available to the Special Unit during the corresponding period to fund activities relating to technical cooperation among developing countries amounted to $5,321,000.

19. The resources contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund, together with the cost-sharing contribution of the Government of Japan to South-South cooperation from the JHRDF, were used to fund projects in the five thematic areas set out in the New Directions Strategy. Allocations were made to projects mainly in the areas of poverty eradication and trade and investment, with a smaller proportion being assigned to aid management. Assistance was also provided to projects dealing with coordination of macro-economic policies and environmental protection. The major allocations of the JHRDF were provided in support of the Africa/Asia Cooperation Programme, which was implemented as a follow-up to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and which accounted for some 52 per cent of the resources available, and intra-Asia cooperation, which accounted for approximately 27 percent of the resources. Although Africa and Asia featured prominently in the allocation of resources, assistance was also provided to project activities carried out in the Arab States, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

20. Two of the more notable projects funded under the TICAD initiative were the Africa-Asia Business Forum and the New Rice for Africa (NERICA) project. The latter, which was carried out in collaboration with the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA), proved extremely promising in generating high-yielding, disease-resistant varieties that are expected to result in a significant increase in rice production in West Africa and a corresponding decrease in imports of this crop. In order to disseminate NERICA, the African Rice Initiative (ARI) was established as a collaborative partnership linking West African countries with donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmers associations. ARI is expected to play a major role in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and NERICA will contribute to the promotion of rice production during the United Nations International Year of Rice in 2004.

21. All of the projects supported were subjected to a project appraisal process carried out within the framework of a Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) organized by the Special Unit. Consultations were also held with contributing Governments and institutions with respect to the design and formulation of the projects.

22. Since the twelfth meeting of the High-level Committee held in May/June 2001, contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund have been quite modest despite the efforts of the Special Unit to sensitize prospective contributors to the financial requirements of the Fund and the several intergovernmental decisions adopted by the General Assembly and the High-level Committee, which called upon prospective donors to contribute to the Fund. Indeed, in operative paragraph 3 of decision 12/1B, the High-level Committee, while welcoming the financial contributions made by some developed and developing countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund as well as triangular cooperation initiatives catalysed or managed by the Special Unit, urged other developed and developing countries with the capacity to do so to contribute to the Trust Fund.

23. Given the dearth of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is formulating a resource-mobilization strategy for the period 2003-2005, taking into account the financial status of donors, pivotal countries with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries, and the private sector. The strategy will be based on the formulation of marketable programmes relating to technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation that

could prove attractive to prospective donors. An effort will be made to involve potential contributors in the development of such initiatives. Emphasis will also be placed on triangular cooperation arrangements, which have proved very attractive to a number of traditional donors as well as pivotal countries in recent years.

24. In pursuing this strategy, the Special Unit will prepare suitable literature outlining the increasing importance of technical cooperation among developing countries, emphasizing the benefits of the modality in formulating and implementing development cooperation activities on the ground. The modality is cost-effective since it involves the transfer to other developing countries of the expertise and experiences available in the more advanced developing countries. Much of that expertise is the result of investments in traditional North-South development cooperation.

25. It will be important, nevertheless, for the High-level Committee to continue to urge both developed and developing countries as well as private foundations to redouble their effort to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund. Such contributions are needed to ensure that adequate resources are available to support South-South cooperation, which is increasingly being recognized as a strategic instrument in support of the development aspirations of the developing countries and as a means of enabling them to respond to the major challenges presented by globalization.

IV. Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of technical cooperation among developing countries

26. An effective organizational structure at the international level is a critical requirement for the promotion of a dynamic programme of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries. In this regard, the role of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, by virtue of its wide-ranging responsibilities with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries in particular and South-South cooperation in general, occupies a central place in the institutional architecture for the coordination, promotion and management of South-South cooperation. It is suitably positioned for such a role in view of its close collaboration with the various organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the Group of 77 and selected groups of developing countries.

27. In recognition of the central role of the Special Unit in the promotion of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly have consistently called for the maintenance of its separate identity within the structure of UNDP and for the strengthening of its capacity to carry out its responsibilities. This position was clearly articulated in operative paragraph 5 of decision 12/2 adopted at the twelfth session of the High-level Committee. The latter not only endorsed the need to ensure an effective role for the Special Unit as the substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee, the United Nations system coordinator for technical cooperation among developing countries and the focal point in the United Nations system for South-South cooperation but also requested the Administrator to ensure that the separate identity of the Special Unit within UNDP is maintained. This language reflects a long-established intergovernmental consensus on the subject.

28. The mandate of the Special Unit is reflected in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as well as in various policy directives contained in decisions and resolutions adopted by the High-level Committee, most notably in the New Directions Strategy, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly as well as in relevant decisions of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA.

29. While the original mandate of the Special Unit with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries reflected in these documents remains valid, the recent designation of the Special Unit as the focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system has the effect of expanding its original mandate. Moreover, the changes in the international economic environment caused by globalization and the adoption of new development cooperation frameworks such as the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77 in April 2000, the Tehran Consensus, the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, the Third

United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation have altered the context in which technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation will have to be pursued. These factors therefore necessitate some reorientation in the strategic focus of the work of the Special Unit as well as adjustments in its organizational structure. Proposals in this regard are set out in the following sections of the present report.

30. It is proposed that the long-term agenda of the Special Unit be inspired by the need to use technical cooperation among developing countries in particular and South-South cooperation in general as vital instruments in support of the development efforts of the developing countries and as an important strategy for ensuring their effective and equitable participation in the international economic system. In keeping with this perspective, the Special Unit will pursue the following objectives:

(a) Increase awareness of the importance of South-South cooperation in achieving the objectives of the various economic declarations and programmes of action adopted by the developing countries and also in meeting the goals of international development cooperation arrangements, most notably, the Millennium Declaration;
(b) Facilitate the use of South-South cooperation as a cost-effective modality of development cooperation;
(c) Contribute to the mobilization and pooling of resources and the transfer of expertise and experiences among developing countries in support of their individual and collective development goals;
(d) Elaborate innovative instruments that could be used by the developing countries to strengthen cooperation among them in support of national and collective development goals;
(e) Serve as a broker by mediating and establishing the conditions for effective cooperation among potential partners in the South; and
(f) Support the collective efforts of the developing countries to respond effectively to the challenges posed by their integration into the global economy.

31. In carrying out these functions, the Special Unit will advise on institutional frameworks within which South-South cooperation could take place; assist in setting up entities that facilitate the use of the modality of South-South cooperation; and advise Governments, the private sector, the NGO community and other relevant institutions in the developing countries on the opportunities for South-South cooperation. It will also provide developing countries with information that could guide and facilitate policy formulation and decision-making in the area of South-South cooperation; support the efforts of the developing countries to ensure their effective participation in global negotiations; and support pilot initiatives that have strategic importance for the use of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

32. The Special Unit will seek to encompass both its traditional mandate to promote technical cooperation among developing countries and its new responsibilities with respect to South-South cooperation referred to in decision 12/2 paragraph 5 of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. In addition, it will maintain a dual focus in terms of its responsibilities as a catalyst in facilitating the mainstreaming of the modalities of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries in UNDP programmes and projects and as system-wide coordinator for South-South cooperation.

33. Some of the criteria that will be used to identify the activities in which the Special Unit will become involved include the participation and commitment of a reasonably large number of developing countries and the projected strategic impact of the proposed activities. Consideration will also be given to the likely support or involvement of other UNDP bureaux or units in the proposed initiatives.

34. In recognition of the importance of forging effective partnerships for the promotion of South-South cooperation, the Special Unit will seek to establish close working relations with the various bureaux and units within UNDP, based on increased consultation with respect to project design and formulation and the implementation of joint activities.

35. The further evolution of the programmatic links between the Special Unit and the various bureaux and units within UNDP will take into account UNDP practice areas and the stewardship of the coordination function exercised by UNDP Resident Representatives in their capacity as Resident Coordinators.

36. In seeking to establish working relations with other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Unit will promote complementary relationships, based on convergent interests and objectives and shared responsibilities, in which each agency will bring to bear its particular sectoral competence. Areas of interest identified for collaboration with agencies include consultations on project formulation, joint project design and joint resource-mobilization activities.

37. In addition to the complementary arrangements identified above, the Special Unit, as was noted earlier, exercises an important responsibility in its roles as coordinator of the promotion of activities relating to technical cooperation among developing countries throughout the United Nations system and focal point for South-South cooperation within the system. However, given its limited human and financial resources, the Special Unit will focus on specific priorities based on the establishment of suitable platforms for discussion with the various agencies on thematic issues relevant to technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation. The strategy elaborated by the Special Unit in pursuing these initiatives will focus on a number of key actions. These include the sensitization of the various United Nations organizations and agencies to the needs of technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation and the promotion of increased collaboration between the Special Unit and other United Nations organizations and agencies.

38. In seeking to work with the various partners identified, emphasis will be placed on the need to combine the comparative advantages or strengths of the prospective development partners and those of the Special Unit. The strength of the latter lies in its role as the official link between UNDP and the Group of 77, which enables it to facilitate working relationships between the two organizations. In addition, the Special Unit is establishing a comprehensive database on South-South cooperation, including documentation on best practices, which bureaux and country offices will be able to access in order to identify experts and institutions in the South as well as opportunities for South-South cooperation and sustainable development in general.

39. Mainstreaming South-South cooperation in the operational activities of the United Nations system is one of the main objectives of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. The strategy to be pursued by the Special Unit in seeking to mainstream technical and economic cooperation among developing countries in the various United Nations organizations and agencies will focus on: (a) the incorporation of South-South cooperation elements into the programming instruments of UNDP and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system such as country cooperation frameworks, UNDAFs and common country assessments; (b) the provision of incentives to encourage bureaux, units and country offices to use the modality of South-South cooperation in operational activities supported by them; and (c) the design and implementation of a suitable capacity-building programme for UNDP staff at headquarters and in country offices in order to sensitize them to the importance of technical cooperation and South-South cooperation.

40. In the particular case of UNDP, the Executive Board had requested the Special Unit to prepare a strategy for the mainstreaming of technical cooperation among developing countries. Based on the strategy paper prepared by the Special Unit, it is proposed that in seeking to mainstream South-South cooperation in UNDP, the Special Unit work within the framework of the UNDP practice areas, namely, democratic governance, poverty reduction, crisis prevention and recovery, energy and the environment, information and communications technology, and HIV/AIDS. In this context, the Special Unit will focus on facilitating the access of the developing countries to the global economy; the introduction of information and communication technologies in support of the commercial activities of the developing countries; offsetting the negative effects of globalization; developing critical institutions of governance and economic management; and transferring indigenous capacities, technology and know-how in a number of key areas relevant to the development needs of the developing countries.

41. As part of the mainstreaming strategy, the Special Unit will assume the role of catalyst, broker and facilitator by identifying potential issues that lend themselves to South-South cooperation, establishing the conditions for effective cooperation among potential partners and providing a number of services to governments, the private sector, academic institutions and NGOs in order to guide policy and decision-making with respect to South-South cooperation.

42. The approach to be adopted by the Special Unit will be based on an assessment of demand and supply among prospective participants. It will be catalytic in nature in that it will use a small amount of resources to generate additional funding. It will also be dynamic in its thrust; substantive in content, based on the achievement of increased value added on the part of the Special Unit; and focused on speed and efficiency in its response.

43. The effectiveness of the proposed new orientation of the Special Unit will depend on the availability of an adequate level of resources to support such a programme. The efforts being made to mobilize resources under the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and other non-core funding were highlighted earlier in the present report. However, it should be pointed out that, based on the request by the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA that consideration be given by the Administrator to increasing the resources allocated for activities relating to technical cooperation among developing countries sponsored by the Special Unit, the Board, in its decision 2002/1, approved an annual allocation of $3.5 million for technical cooperation among developing countries. In 2002, the General Assembly, in its resolution A/C.2/5/57/L.53, par. 10 decided to include the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the Pledging Conference for Development Activities as long as the Conference exists.

44. While this annual allocation represents an increase over the amount allocated for technical cooperation among developing countries during the previous programming period, it is by no means adequate to satisfy the demand for support to various initiatives relating to technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation. It is for this reason that the Special Unit has embarked on a resource-mobilization strategy designed to secure resources for an expanded programme of South-South cooperation. The strategy is based upon a two-pronged approach: targeting traditional sources of funding for technical and economic cooperation among developing countries and, in collaboration with the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, tapping new sources such as developing countries designated as having a pivotal role in South-South cooperation and private foundations. In addition, increased emphasis will be placed on triangular cooperation arrangements, in which a number of donors have expressed an interest.

45. It is felt that the reorientation of the functions of the Special Unit along the lines proposed, together with the adoption of a proactive resource-mobilization strategy, will enable the Special Unit to serve as a dynamic instrument for the promotion of both technical cooperation among developing countries in particular and South-South cooperation in general. However, in carrying out its responsibilities, the Special Unit will continue to be guided by the policy directives contained in the decisions and resolutions of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, most notably the New Directions Strategy, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly as well as in relevant decisions of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA. In addition, it will take into account the charter documents on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, most notably the Buenos Aires Programme of Action on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Caracas Programme of Action on South-South cooperation, the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, the Tehran Consensus and other relevant global development-cooperation frameworks, most notably the Millennium Declaration.

V. Recommendations

46. Based on the foregoing analysis, it is recommended that:

(a) The Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which now incorporate the common results framework, be approved;

(b) The organizations and agencies of the United Nations system be requested to follow the Revised Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in the design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their development cooperation programmes and projects;

(c) Developed and developing countries in a position to do so be urged to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation in order to enable the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries to fund initiatives aimed at expanding programmes and projects involving technical cooperation among developing countries and South-South cooperation;

(d) The resource mobilization strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries outlined in the present report be endorsed;

(e) United Nations organizations and agencies be urged to collaborate with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in intensifying efforts to mainstream technical and economic cooperation among developing countries in their development activities.